



Flathead Conservation District
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Web site: www.flatheadcd.org

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the August 28, 2017, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present:

Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; being a quorum of the Board.

Board members absent: Lori Curtis, Supervisor. Absence is excused.

Also in attendance were: Valerie Kurth, Cynthia Ingelfinger and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Samantha Tappenbeck, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM); Tom Esch; Kurt Hafferman; John Powell.

MINUTES

Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2017 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email: The Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) Fall 2017 Water Quality Mini-Grant Applications are due via email by Friday, September 29, 2017 at 5 p.m. <http://swcdmi.org/programs/mini-grants/>. Contact Jessica Makus, jessica@macdnet.org.
 2. Email: August 2017 edition of the Gallatin Conservation District newsletter *Conservation Journal*. Contact 406-282-4350, <http://www.gallatincd.org>
 3. Email: August 2017 edition of the SWCDM newsletter *The Montana Conservationist* <http://swcdm.org>
 4. Email: The Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM), in partnership with the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council, has funding for a cost-share program to help ranchers with riparian pasture fencing projects, *Ranching for Rivers*. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, with the first review deadline on September 22, 2017, 5 PM. Applications submitted after the deadline will be eligible for the next round of funding. Contact Jessica Makus, jessica@macdnet.org, 406-443-5711
 5. Email: Robsebud & Big Horn CD summer newsletter *Conservation Connection* Contact: www.rosebudcd.org, 406-346-7333 ext 101
 6. Email: Fall issue of Custer CD newsletter *Conservation Update*
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- Contact 406-232-7905, ext. 103
7. Email: Montana State University College of Agriculture (Bozeman) faculty will host an evening tour and talks about small-acre production agriculture, horticulture, specialty crops and information on U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency programs from 6-8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 8.
The [MSU Twilight Farm Tour](#) will be held at the MSU Horticulture Farm, located on the Bozeman Agricultural Research and Teaching Farm, 730 W. Garfield. It is free and open to the public and will include local agricultural producers, Extension specialists and FSA representatives on hand, and tours of MSU's [Towne's Harvest Garden](#).
Contact: College of Agriculture, Shannon Arnold, 406-994-6663
shannon.arnold@montana.edu
 8. Email: Montana Watershed Coordination Council 8/14/2017 newsletter *Watershed News* <http://mtwatersheds.org/app>
 9. Email: Carbon Conservation District is hosting a *Reduced Tillage Tour* at Schlemmer Farms, MM 36, Hwy 310, Fromberg, MT. Contact Mabel Schwend 406-962-3641, Ext. 105, mabel.schwend@mt.nacdnet.net

FINANCIAL

The following bills were reviewed:

1. CenturyLink \$264.79
2. MACDEO \$31.50
3. Missoula CD \$160.00
4. MontanaSky Networks \$20.00

Mark Siderius made a motion "to approve the bills as presented." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one was present to comment on items not listed on the agenda.

310'S

STALOWY, FL2016050, Bear Creek, permit modification request:

Tom Esch stated he was here on behalf of Brig Klyce to oppose Stalowy's request to modify the permit. He noted that Don Murray also sent a memo dated 8/24/17 asking the district to deny the modification request.

Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion "to table and request a technical review - for a wetland revegetation specialist to review the proposal, and have them report back by 9/30, if possible." Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



WALTERS, FL2017025, Flathead River, road/fill/dock/utilities/residence:
John Ellis made a motion “to approve the application with modifications submitted 8/23/17.” Ronald Buentemeier seconded. Discussion held. Motion carried with one no vote. *Verdell Jackson abstained from voting.*

Dean Sirucek made a motion “to amend the motion to add: shrub planting will be placed along the northeast corner of the home/house fill embankment area approximately 20 feet to the west and 20 feet to the south. The proposed view platform piers are not to be in the water. Specifications for proposed dock are acceptable but outside the current rules as far as dock length. Depth of water at the end of dock shall not exceed 5 feet at full pool.” Ronald Buentemeier seconded. Motion carried unanimously. *Verdell Jackson abstained from voting.*

NEW BUSINESS

EDUCATION GRANT: An updated education grant request was received from Whitefish Legacy Partners. Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the education grant by Whitefish Legacy Partners dated 8/15/2017.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EDUCATION BROCHURES: Valerie Kurth presented a draft education programs brochure designed by Kate Arpin, SWCDM. Printing cost would be \$180 for 1000 copies. Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to have the education brochures printed.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

310 ADS: Valerie Kurth talked to the board about diversifying the district’s advertising strategy to reach more people. John Ellis made a motion “to run the 4 ads (quarterly) in the Mountain Trader, 2x4 size, at \$56 each totaling \$224.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

USGS STREAM GAGE AGREEMENT: Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve \$1700 for operating the Foys Bend gage from the settlement funds account.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT DISPOSAL: Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to approve the Furniture and Equipment disposal request.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



BUDGET: The June End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the June End of Month report.” Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The July End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the July End of Month report.” John Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2017/2018 FINAL BUDGET: Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the final Fiscal Year 2017/2018 budget as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

NRCS REPORT: Angél Rosario, NRCS: No report.

STAFF REPORT: Valerie Kurth and Cynthia Ingelfinger reported:

District Office and Outreach

1. August advertisements: Bridge 310, Cost Share-Pastures
2. Valerie coordinated a follow-up site visit to the Stalowoy project site (July 24th), and a second site visit for the Walters application (August 16th).
3. Valerie, Cynthia, and Tiffany Martin toured the F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company mill on August 8th.
4. Valerie attended the River Steward meeting on August 9th.
5. Cynthia attended the Community of Resource Educators (CORE) website meeting on August 15th.
6. Cynthia attended the Haskill Basin Watershed Council meeting on August 9th. Cynthia also submitted the final report for the HB223 grant, reviewed the draft engineering report, and coordinated discussion among committee members.

Cow Creek 319 Application

Cynthia, Valerie, and Samantha Tappenbeck have been working together on application drafting, DEQ communication, and landowner outreach. They met with a representative from the City of Whitefish Parks and Recreation Department to review and discuss the project site at the High Point subdivision. The City subsequently determined that this component of the project is unfeasible because of an existing agreement with the developer. However, there are at least two potential opportunities to partner with two private landowners on Cow Creek, and there will still be partnerships with the Whitefish Lake Institute and students from Project FREEFLOW.

Trumbull Creek RRGL Planning Grant

Valerie is working to compile information and write the grant application. She arranged a meeting with the director of Glacier Park International Airport, Rob Ratkowski, and she and Ronald Buentemeier met with him on August 16th. The airport is supportive of our proposed project. The application is drafted and will be submitted before Sept 1st.



Education and Outreach

CORE – Cynthia has been editing the Flathead CORE website content.

Rolling Rivers Trailer – Valerie updated the presentation report forms for the trailer to facilitate reporting to DNRC and MACD. Cynthia purchased a new tarp to extend the lifespan of the current cover.

Northwest Montana Fair – FCD partnered with Flathead National Forest, Glacier National Park, and Flathead County Weed Department for this year's fair. The theme was AIS and a search and rescue boat with fake mussels hidden on and around it served as a fun activity for all ages. Thank you to everyone who helped staff our booth, including Dean Sirucek, John Ellis, Tiffany Martin, Sarah Bowman, Verdell Jackson, and Ronald Buentemeier.

Website

Cynthia posted new blogs about the Montana Range Tour and the Northwest Montana Fair display.

Samantha Tappenbeck, Area Resource Specialist – Water; for Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) reported:

Workshop: Stream Gaging in the Flathead Basin:

- The Flathead River Commission is interested in developing and hosting a workshop to:
 - better understand the past and present distribution of gage networks
 - educate participants on how gages are funded, operated, and maintained
 - identify current data needs for FRC and others
- So far, interest in participation from:
 - Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Geological Survey, Whitefish Lake Institute

319 application development for Cow Creek:

- Working with Flathead CD staff and Whitefish Lake Institute to develop restoration plan for Cow Creek
- Landowner outreach and application development for EPA CWA section 319 funding

Progress on Thompson River Basin WRP:

- Sections 1-5 complete; sections 6-7 in draft
- There have been 12 responses from interested stakeholders to the online survey; follow-up correspondence has been sent to each respondent
- Progress report sent out to all survey respondents and interested stakeholders; update added to Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group website
<http://lowerclarkforkwatershedgroup.org/trwrp-august-23-update/>

Ranching For Rivers program (SWCDM):



- \$70K available for projects to support responsible grazing of the riparian zone: benefits to landowners, benefits to the river
- Funding is from EPA, CWA section 319; Watershed Restoration Plan required
- Focus on western Montana
- Logistics on the producer side:
 - 50% cost share - infrastructure: fencing, water tanks, water gaps, hardened crossings, etc.
 - Landowner agreements
 - Includes assistance from certified grazing assistance plan developer
- First round of applications due: September 22, 2017
 - Late applications accepted on a rolling basis, considered for next round in spring
- Contact Samantha Tappenbeck (406-291-6314) or Jess Makus at SWCDM (406-443-5711)

Conservation Menu (SWCDM): **www.mtconservationmenu.org**

- SWCDM has released the Montana Conservation Menu website to serve as a hub/clearinghouse for all conservation-related programs
- So far, over 70 programs in six categories:
 - Water, Forestry, Soils, Weeds & AIS, Pollinators, Rangeland
- Consolidates diverse and numerous programs into one user-friendly format
- Program and organization/agency information, contact information, keyword search
- Further input welcome! Any suggestions or comments contact Samantha Tappenbeck (406-291-6314) or SWCDM main office (406-443-5711)

MACD REPORT: No report. A brief discussion was held regarding the MACD Process document.

FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION REPORT: Dean Sirucek reported the next meeting will be held September 27th.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD: No report.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD: No report.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL (HBWC): Cynthia Ingelfinger reported the HBWC discussed the Haskill Creek culvert replacement project. The next meeting will be held September 27th.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION: No report.

CLARK FORK BASIN COUNCIL: No report.



MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

- **OFFICE FURNITURE** -This will be on the 9/25 meeting agenda
- **MACD PARTIAL DUES LETTER** - This will be on the 9/11 meeting agenda.
- **FLATHEAD LAND TRUST, SOMERS/SLITER SITE**
- **STURGIS PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

The next 310-Stream Permit meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

ADJOURNMENT: Pete Wolll made a motion “to adjourn.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 P.M.

Submitted By: Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>9/11/2017</u>	<u>Ronald Buentemeier</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
<i>(Date)</i>	<i>(Signature)</i>	<i>(Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)</i>

